

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the Study**

In this life, struggle can be seen in a society. Struggle means some efforts to reach something. If someone struggles to do something, she or he tries hard to do it, even though other people or thing, may be, make it difficult for her or him. The struggle varies, such as struggle for justice, struggle to get a job, struggle to get happiness, struggle for freedom, struggle for love, struggle to get achievement, and also struggle for life. Many people live to make a life better than before. They must work hard and struggle to get better. Basically, every human being has the same purpose of her or his life. People want to be happy and can live well with other. However in the fact, life in the world will not always go smoothly and evenly, it is inevitable that every person has problems and conflict.

One of the most well known humanistic psychologists is Abraham Maslow. His theory is called Hierarchy of Needs. Maslow formulated a theory of human motivation in which the human's being varying needs are seen as arising in a hierarchical fashion. That is, certain basic needs, such as hunger and thirst, must be satisfied before other needs.

Maslow (in Hjelle, 1992: 448) proposed that all human needs are innate and that they are systematically arranged in an ascending hierarchy of priority or prepotency.

The needs are, in order of their priority: (1) physiological needs; (2) safety and security needs; (3) belongingness and love needs; (4) self-esteem needs; and (5) self-actualization needs, or the needs for personal fulfillment.

Literary work has a close relationship with human life. One of literary works is film. Film has the same position, as the majors genres in textual studies, like poetry and novel. A film tells a real situation, or shows a story based on the problems of human life. Film becomes the first choice for the audience, because it gives some advantages. For example, by watching film, the audience can learn about problems of human life, get pleasure and also enhance vocabulary.

*My Sister's Keeper* is the the great drama movie. This movie is an American drama and released on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009. It was directed by Nick Cassavetes, the talented director, actor, and screenwriter. The movie is starred by Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin, Sofia Vassilieva, and Alec Baldwin and it was produced by New Line Cinema. The duration of this movie is 109 minutes and English as the dialogue. The movie is adapted from the novel by Jodi Picoult with the same title, *My Sister's Keeper*.

*My Sister's Keeper* is one of the best movies. It can be seen from awards that are given for this movie. Some of them are Teen Choice Award (2009), as the winner by categories of Choice Movie Drama Summer. For the players, Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin both receive the ALMA Awards, as winners in the category Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture for Cameron Diaz, best Performance in a Feature Film - Leading Young Actress

for Abigail Breslin, in the award of the Young Artist Awards, as nomination in the category Best Performance in a Feature Film Supporting Actor, obtained by Brennan Bailey, as well as awards from the Young Artist Awards, as winners in the category of Best Performance in a Feature Film Supporting Actress which was won by Sofia Vassilieva.

Nicholas David Rowland Cassavetes, better known as Nick Cassavetes is an American film actor, screenwriter, and filmmaker. He was born in New York, May 21, 1959. As a child, Nick Cassavetes has been playing the movie, because he was the son of a couple who are both career in the industry of film art, they are John Cassavetes and Gena Rowland. This can be seen from his presence in the film industry since childhood.

Actually, Cassavetes ideal is not to work in the film industry, he was aspired to become an athlete of basketball and he was trying to live to play basketball. However playing basketball made him be injured and he changed his mind and forgot these ideal. Cassavetes then tried to re-engage in the film industry. He decided to attend his Parents' alma mater, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He had appeared in some of films. As an actor, he has some of movie; they are *Black Rose of Harlem* (1996), *Face Off* (1997), *Life* (1999), *The Astronaut's Wife* (1999), and *The Independent* (2000). Some movie also was directed by Cassavetes, such as *She's so Lovely* (1997), *John Q* (2002), *The Notebook* (2004), *Alpha Dog* (2006), and *My Sister's Keeper* (2009).

*My Sister's Keeper* is one of Cassavetes movie with theme of love and struggle. It tells about the complex problems in a family. The story begins when Kate, a daughter of the couple husband and wife, Brian and Sara Fitzgerald convicts suffering of leukemia, a blood and bone marrow cancer. Kate has been suffered from the deadly disease since she was still very young. Certainly, Brian and Sara very panic to hear the verdict from doctor, stating that their daughter is still very young suffering leukemia, especially her mother, Sara is very sad to hear that. Then they find a way out and continue to strive so that their child can survive and recover from the disease, although they know that the possibility of a cure is very small.

Anna, Kate's younger sister was conceived as a savior sibling, in order to harvest blood from her umbilical cord to use in treatments to help save Kate's life. Although the treatment was initially successful, Kate relapsed; ever since, Anna, the only compatible family member, has been used as a donor for any other bodily substance needed to treat Kate, who continues to swing between remission and relapse as she grows up.

Anna is usually willing to donate whatever Kate needs, but when she is 13, she is told that she will have to donate one of her kidneys. The surgery required for both Kate and Anna would be major; it is not guaranteed to work, as the stress of the operation may well kill Kate anyway; and the loss of a kidney could have a serious impact on Anna's life. Anna, who still wants to have fun with her childhood, should retain for not doing activities if she has only a kidney. Ana thinks that she has right to live and lead a normal like

everyone else, especially not to support her sister alive. Ana is entitled to the organs of her body, although it is for reasons of humanity especially her sister, but her mother has no right to force her to continuously sacrificing for her sister. Anna petitions for medical emancipation with the help of lawyer Campbell Alexander, so that she will be able to make her own decisions regarding her medical treatment and the donation of her kidney.

There are four reasons why this movie is really interesting. The first is *My Sister's Keeper* has unusual story, this is a real life story about the real condition life events. The story tells about struggle of Kate for life, she suffers from acute promyelocytic leukimia, a blood and bone marrow cancer. Kate has been suffered from that deadly disease since she was still very early. Then her parents find a way out and continue to strive so that their child can survive and recover from the disease. Anna, her younger sister was conceived as a savior sibling, in order to harvest blood from her umbilical cord to use in treatments to help save Kate's life.

The second reason is the movie reflects the real life of complex problems. There are so many conflicts that are clash between reason and instinct. The conflict in this film begins when a child who is suffering from leukemia has only little hope to live. Starting from a child's desire that retain ownership of her body organs, a mother who fights for her child's survival, but ignoring the safety of other children. The other conflict is when a child who suffering from leukemia does not wants her mother continually apply pressure to her sister who has become donor for herself since childhood.

The third reason is because this movie is one of the Nick Cassavetes best movies. He is the talented director, screenwriter and actor. He directs this movie full of surprises events beyond measure. The director plays the audiences' mind and then turning on one event that may not be predictable by the audiences. This is what makes this film is not bored and always cultivates curiosity of the audience. This film also can make the audiences cry because this drama really touches the heart and feelings.

The last reason is about moral conflicts in this movie. Not a few moral messages convey in this story. The message that is conveyed is not only about the deep affection, but also about the struggle and sacrifice that led to widespread disapproval from others. It teaches the audiences, how to learn to understand the will of a child, how to understand that every child is entitled to get equal affection.

From the explained above, the researcher is really interested in analyzing the struggle for life of Kate in *My Sister's Keeper* movie. The study will be analyzed by Abraham Maslow's Humanistic theory. So, the researcher entitles this research STRUGGLE FOR LIFE OF KATE IN NICK CASSAVETES'S *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* MOVIE (2009): A HUMANISTIC APPROACH.

## **B. Literature Review**

The writer has found five researchers that conducted the study of *My Sister's Keeper*. The first researcher who analyzes the movie is Septianingtyas

(2011), Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Her thesis entitled, “Moral Conflicts of Organ Donation in Nick Cassavetes’s *My Sister’s Keeper* Movie (2009): A Psychoanalytic Approach”. She analyzes moral conflicts of organ donation viewed in terms of moral based on psychoanalytic perspective and analyzes the movie based on its structural elements. In her research, she finds the id, ego and superego of the major characters.

The second literary review is conducted by Kusumadewi (2011), Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Her research is entitled “Coping with the Child of Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia in Nick Cassavetes’s *My Sister’s Keeper* Movie (2009): An Individual Psychological Perspective”. She analyzes of coping with the child of acute promyelocytic leukemia based on individual psychological perspective and analyze the movie based on its structural elements.

The third researcher is Santa Miduk (2010), University of Sumatra Utara student, with the thesis entitled “Analysis of Meaning of Phrasal Verbs Found in Jodi Picoult’s Novel *My Sister’s*”. In her research, she finds there are 132 sentences that contain of phrasal verb in *My Sister’s Keeper* novel.

The Fourth researcher is T. Dini Maharani (2010) from University of Sumatra Utara Medan. Her research is entitled “A Brief Description of Main Character’s Morality in Jodi Picoult’s Novel *My Sister’s Keeper*”. It is research done in order to find out the characters morality of the novel being researched, and the research focus on main character.

The last researcher is Dini Herawaty (2010), The State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim of Malang student, with the thesis entitled “Psychological Dilemma of The Major Characters in Jodi Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper*”. In her research, she finds the id, ego and superego of both Anna and Sara take the place in every decision they have made.

This research will be completed and it can enrich the five previous researches above. This research is different from them, it focuses on the struggle for life with using a humanistic approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problem in this research is, ” How is the struggle of Kate’s life reflected in *My Sister’s Keeper* movie?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the struggle for life of Kate in *My Sister’s Keeper* movie based on Humanistic approach.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

There are two objectives of the study in the research, they are:

- a. To analyze the elements of the movie.
- b. To analyze the struggle for life of Kate in *My Sister’s Keeper* movie based on the Humanistic approach.



## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The result of this research is expected to give some benefits as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study will be beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *My Sister's Keeper* Movie by Nick Cassavetes.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

It gives deeper understanding in literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing movie especially based on Humanistic Approach.

## **G. Research Method**

The methods of the research are follows:

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is Nick Cassavetes's *My Sister's Keeper* movie.

### **2. Type of the Study**

In analyzing the data found in the movie, the writer uses the qualitative method as the type of the research.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

#### **a. Type of the Data**

Type of the data is the form of text (script) and image from *My Sister's Keeper* movie by Nick Cassavetes.

#### b. The Data Source

There are two data sources in this study, the primary data source and secondary data source.

##### 1) The Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is *My Sister's Keeper* movie by Nick Cassavetes.

##### 2) Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is the other data which have relationship with the study, such as the articles from internet, the books and other relevant information.

#### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

There are two types of data, text and image from *My Sister's Keeper* movie. In writing this research paper, the writer uses certain technique as follows:

##### a. Text

- 1) Reading and learning the script of *My Sister's Keeper* movie
- 2) Taking notes of important parts in the data
- 3) Classifying and determining the relevant data
- 4) Developing and provided.

##### b. Image

- 1) Watching the movie repeatedly to understand the movie. The images are taken from the movie
- 2) Taking notes of important information in both primary and secondary

data source

- 3) Capturing images from the movie
- 4) Determining the character that will be analyzed
- 5) Arranging and developing the data.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique of the data analysis, the researcher uses descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and the Humanistic approach.

## **H. Reasearch Paper Organization**

The writer constructs the paper organization in order to give understanding to the readers into five chapters, they are; Chapter I is introduction consisting of background of the study, previous study , limitation of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is the underlying theory that content the notion of Humanistic theory and structural elements of the movie, which is closely related to the topic discussed. Chapter III covers the structural elements of the movie that includes narrative and technical elements. Chapter IV is Humanistic Psychological toward the movie. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion of the study.